



THE MARYLAND NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

200 W. Baltimore Street ♦ Baltimore MD 21201 ♦ Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

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What is the Maryland Network of Partnership Schools?

Maryland is a partner in the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University. Through this affiliation, the Maryland State Department of Education encourages schools and school systems to join the Network of Partnership Schools in developing and maintaining strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

What does the network offer?

The Maryland Network of Partnership Schools offers a research-based framework and strategies that enable all schools and school systems to organize productive school-family-community partnerships to help students succeed.

How are partnerships developed?

Good partnerships are based on a comprehensive program that includes the following six types of family and community involvement to increase student success:

- ♦ **Parenting** -- Assisting families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students; assisting schools in understanding families.
- ♦ **Communicating** -- Conducting effective communications from school to home and home to school about school programs and student progress.
- ♦ **Volunteering** -- Organizing volunteers and audiences to support schools and students; providing volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.
- ♦ **Learning at Home** -- Involving families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.
- ♦ **Decision Making** -- Including families as participants in school decisions; developing parent leaders and representatives.
- ♦ **Collaborating with the Community** -- Coordinating resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school; providing services to the community.

What does it mean to be a member?

Members receive assistance in the development of their partnership program. For school systems and each school within the school system, the National Network does the following:

- Supplies a handbook to guide the development of programs
- Issues a certificate of membership
- Conducts biannual training workshops
- Distributes the Network's semi-annual newsletter *Partnership Practices*
- Provides technical assistance by telephone, e-mail, and web site
- Offers optional research and evaluation opportunities.

Who can join?

Membership is open to all schools that agree to use the framework of the six types of involvement and complete an annual update report. For more information, contact Maria Schaeffer, Specialist, Family, School and Community Involvement, MSDE, at 410-767-0296.

To join the Network, there is a processing fee of \$100 for schools and \$200 for counties and organizations. Annual renewal fees are \$100 for schools and \$200 for counties and organizations. Renewal fees are waived for all members who return the annual update survey.